

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 CCO-00 SY-05 /054 R

DRAFTED BY UWG:JWHITING:PS

APPROVED BY UWG:JWHITING

S/S-O: SESTEINER

-----282144 079052 /67

O 282122Z FEB 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 044125

FOR DEPTY. ASST. SECTY. SEELYE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UG, US

SUBJECT: UGANDA SITUATION REPORT NO. 3 AS OF 1800 HOURS
(EST) FEBRUARY 26, 2977

THE FOLLOWING IS THE THIRD SITUATION REPORT ON UGANDA
PREPARED BY THE UGANDA WORKING GROUP IN THE DEPARTMENT.
IT IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY. DO NOT RPT NOT DRAW
UPON IT WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

1. DURING THE PAST 12 HOURS ACTIVITY WITHIN THE UGANDAN
WORKING GROUP HAS REMAINED AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL.
INDICATIONS CONTINUE TO POINT TO A LESSENING OF TENSIONS
IN THE SITUATION IN UGANDA. THIS MORNING THE MINISTRY
OF INFORMATION IN KAMPALA ISSUED A LENGTHY STATEMENT
ASSURING ALL CONCERNED THAT PRESIDENT AMIN WANTS ONLY TO
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THANK THE AMERICANS FOR THEIR HARD WORK. THE SPOKESMAN
ALSO STATED THAT "THOSE AMERICANS, BOTH BLACK AND WHITE
WHO WISH TO ACQUIRE UGANDAN CITIZENSHIP WILL HAVE IT
GRANTED AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WANT THEIR WORK PERMITS
EXTENDED".

2. SITREP PREPARED BY FRG EMBASSY KAMPALA SATURDAY

MORNING STATED IT WAS EMBASSY'S OPINION THAT THERE IS NO CURRENT REASON TO FEAR FOR THE SECURITY OF US CITIZENS IN UGANDA. FRG AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT THIS ASSESSMENT

WAS SUPPORTED BY THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND THE LIBYAN CHARGE. THE FRG EMBASSY NOTED THEY WERE BEING CONTACTED CONSTANTLY BY US CITIZENS, AND WAS ADVISING THEM TO REMAIN CALM AND NOT MAKE ANY MOVES WHICH MIGHT BE MIS-INTERPRETED BY LOWER RANKS OF MILITARY OR SECURITY FORCES. PRIMARY CONCERNS VOICED BY FRG EMBASSY WERE THAT INDIVIDUAL US CITIZENS MIGHT PANIC OR SPEAK OUT AGAINST KILLINGS GOING ON IN UGANDA, AND THEREBY PLACE THEMSELVES IN PERSONAL JEOPARDY.

3. THE DEPARTMENT HAS SENT A MESSAGE THROUGH THE FRG EMBASSY IN KAMPALA AS A REASSURANCE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN UGANDA. THE MESSAGE ADVISES CITIZENS "TO COMPLY WITH LOCAL REGULATIONS AND TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS WITH UGANDAN OFFICIALS." THE AMERICANS HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT ANYONE WISHING TO DEPART WILL BE ASSISTED BY THE FRG EMBASSY.

4. THE ACTING UGANDAN CHARGE REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT HE HAD TALKED TO PRESIDENT AMIN THIS MORNING, AND THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD AGAIN ASSURED HIM THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS WOULD NOT BE HARMED NOR WOULD THEY BE TAKEN AS HOSTAGES. AMIN ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE USG WOULD WISH TO SEND AN EMISSARY TO KAMPALA TO RECEIVE HIS ASSURANCES DIRECTLY. OUR RESPONSE WELCOMED AMIN'S ASSURANCES, AND
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EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT DUE CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN IN THE EVENT THAT SOME AMERICANS WERE UNAVOIDABLY UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MONDAY MEETING. AS TO THE REQUEST FOR AN EMISSARY, WE SAID ONLY THAT THE MATTER WAS BEING STUDIED.

5. A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRESIDENT AMIN IS BEING TRANSMITTED THROUGH AMERICAN EMBASSY BONN TO THE FRG EMBASSY IN KAMPALA FOR DELIVERY. THE LETTER BRIEFLY ACKNOWLEDGES AMIN'S LONG MESSAGE, WELCOMES HIS ASSURANCE CONCERNING AMERICANS IN UGANDA, AND INFORMS HIM THAT THE US WILL BE GLAD TO PROVIDE A COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT TO FLY THEM OUT. THE TEXT WILL BE GIVEN TO THE UGANDA CHARGE. (NOTE: TEXT NOT DELIVERED TO GOU)

6. PLANS ARE UNDERWAY TO CHARTER A BELL AIR D-8 AIRCRAFT FROM ZURICH TO STANDBY IN KINSHASA TO EVACUATE ANY AMERICANS WHO DECIDE TO DEPART UGANDA. THE WHITE HOUSE RELEASED AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT WELCOMING "ASSURANCES THAT

THE GOU INTENDS NO HARM TO AMERICANS THERE" BUT WE ARE STILL "CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELFARE OF AMERICANS" AND EXPECT UGANDAN AUTHORITIES TO INSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL FOREIGNERS WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES.

7. THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS RESPONSES FROM AFRICAN LEADERS TO ITS REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN DEALING WITH AMIN SO AS TO ASSURE THE SAFETY OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN UGANDA. ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT MOBUTU, OAU SEC GEN ETEKI, CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPEROR BOKASSA, AND EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY HAVE SENT MESSAGES TO THEIR EMISSARIES IN KAMPALA TO SPEAK TO AMIN ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICANS THERE IN ORDER TO INSURE THEIR SAFETY AND OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR THEIR DEPARTURE IF THEY SO DESIRE. SUDANESE PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HAS SENT A LEADING GOS SPOKESMAN TO KAMPALA, CARRYING A MESSAGE TO AMIN FROM NIMEIRI AND EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF AMERICANS.

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8. THE DEPARTMENT CABLED FRG EMBASSY IN KAMPALA REQUESTING CONFIRMATION THAT FRG AND OTHER WESTERN DIPLOMATS IN KAMPALA WILL ATTEND THE MONDAY MORNING MEETING BETWEEN AMIN AND THE AMERICANS.

9. IN AN UNCONFIRMED FBIS REPORT THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT AMIN WOULD MEET US CITIZENS AT THE ENTEBBE AIRPORT AT 8:00 RATHER THAN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER IN KAMPALA AT 11:00. THE REASON GIVEN FOR THE CHANGE IN VENUE WAS THAT ONLY THE AIRPORT COULD ACCOMMODATE 3,000 PERSONS. WHILE THE CHOICE OF ENTEBBE IS OBVIOUSLY DISQUIETING, THE CITED FIGURE OF AN EXPECTED GATHERING OF 3,000 PERSONS LENDS SOME CREDENCE TO UGANDAN CLAIMS THAT THE MEETING WILL BE ESSENTIALLY A SOCIAL EVENT OPEN TO PUBLIC MEDIA COVERAGE.

10. THE MOST RECENT FIGURES OBTAINED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN UGANDA OFFICIALLY CONFIRM THAT 64 AMERICANS ARE THERE WITH 184 LEFT TO BE VERIFIED FOR A TOTAL OF 248. PERIODIC CALLS HAVE TURNED UP A FEW WHO ARE NOT MENTIONED ON THE LIST PROVIDED BY THE FRG.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CITIZEN PROTECTION, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: JWHITING:PS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: STATE
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3230123
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UGANDA SITUATION REPORT NO. 3 AS OF 1800 HOURS (EST) FEBRUARY 26, 2977 THE FOLLOWING IS THE THIRD SITUATION REPORT ON UGA
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, PINT, UG, US
To: KHARTOUM KINSHASA
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/383f1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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